

Health Plans, Greenbelt, MD; Blue Cross & Blue Shield of the National Capital Area and Chartered Health Plan in Washington, DC, and Total Health Care, Inc. and Prudential Health Care Plan in Baltimore, MD. Next year, the program will expand to provide training at additional sites in four southwestern States: Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and California.

AAHP is the national association representing health maintenance organizations [HMO's], preferred provider organizations [PPO's], and other similar health plans. Together, these health plans provide care for more than 140 million Americans.

I hope that this Congress will recognize that programs such as the Minority Management Development Program are of vital importance and that they meet a critical need in the education and training of America's health professionals.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BOWSE

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to James Bowse. Jim died unexpectedly on Tuesday, June 17. As president/chief executive officer at the Rutland Regional Medical Center since 1989, Jim was considered to be one of the most progressive and effective leaders in the field of health care.

Jim understood the challenges facing community hospitals, but never lost sight of the human element in medicine. During his tenure at the Rutland facility Jim was instrumental in creating the first State-owned health maintenance organization [HMO]. He established a Rutland-based system of physicians to provide high quality service while simultaneously containing costs.

Jim strove to develop a community approach in medicine. To that end, he maintained reserves to cover the costs associated with patients that could not afford the treatment they required. Jim was able to freeze patient fees since 1991, while doubling annual revenues to \$100 billion. In addition, he played a vital role in the establishment of an orthopedic clinic and the expansion of outpatient services as well as preventative health projects.

Jim had a great sense of humor and an uncanny ability to make the most complex issues seem simple. His dedication to the people of Vermont is in the State's finest tradition. Through his efforts, Jim made a lasting impression upon the community which will be slow to fade. I extend my condolences to his family and friends.●

PLEASANT HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL—A 1997 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize a worthy school in my State.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program annually identifies elementary and middle schools which attain

high academic standards, foster an educational community, productive communication and strong leadership, and indicate a hopeful future. These schools are acknowledged for their achievements and held up publicly as models for other schools.

In testament to West Virginia's strong commitment to education, I am proud that my State contains more blue ribbon schools this year than most others—7 schools out of the 263 honored across the country. Of these, I wish to highlight the achievement of one today: Pleasant Hill Elementary School in Grantsville, WV.

Pleasant Hill's two-story brick building is tucked among the forests of Calhoun County, far from any city or even a fast-food restaurant. It is a place where West Virginians face many financial challenges, yet those at Pleasant Hill have struggled and succeeded in the face of these obstacles. They see that education is the way to a better future.

For 8 years, under a community vision that every child must first master a backbone of basic skills, the school has steadily improved its standing. When teachers were not satisfied with math scores, they examined their teaching methods and implemented a new approach which emphasized practicing skills after they were learned. Now Pleasant Hill students placed in the 91 percentile in math. With this strategy, directing attention to one needy area at a time, the whole school has raised itself to a level which deserves notice.

But the whole community—not just the teachers—has also changed the atmosphere at Pleasant Hill. Under the leadership of administrators like Principal Lawrence Stinn, the faculty and parents see themselves as members of the same team aspiring together to teach the children. When a school community is so united, perhaps the most important aspect of education is already achieved: a sense of optimism. And the Pleasant Hill community certainly has reason to see a bright future.

During a time when our public schools face innumerable obstacles, it is comforting to see places like Pleasant Hill. They reassure us that, with a little determination, all schools in America can improve. Thus I am pleased to congratulate the accomplishments and continuing efforts of the people of Grantsville. I am proud they are from West Virginia and know that they will continue to represent the best that our State has to offer.●

TRIBUTE TO MILDRED SOSH

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to commend an extraordinary woman for her lifelong dedication to service and charity. Ninety-two-year-old Mildred Sosh volunteers at the Wayside Christian Mission in Louisville one morning every week where she showers needy infants with loving care.

Mrs. Sosh never had children of her own, so she loves the children at Wayside with all her heart. Mrs. Sosh also taught first grade for 44 years. This remarkable woman has volunteered at Wayside Christian Mission for 28 years where she first worked with the Mission's auxiliary mending clothes and making homemade gravy. She later volunteered in the day care where she remains today. Mrs. Sosh also volunteers at Salem United Church of Christ where she is a member. Mrs. Sosh was deservedly honored this spring at the J.C. Penney Golden Rule Awards Banquet for her dedication to helping the homeless.

Despite her dependence on a cane to walk, Mrs. Sosh arrives at Wayside every Tuesday morning to rock the babies. She recruited a friend about 4 years ago to volunteer also so that she would always have a ride to the mission. Although not everyone can volunteer as extensively as Mildred Sosh, we can all take inspiration from her selfless sacrifice for the sake of others.

Mr. President, I ask that you join me in honoring Mildred Sosh.●

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1997

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, in behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 16. I further ask that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business until the hour of 11 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes, with the following exceptions: Senators HAGEL and CLELAND, 20 minutes; Senator TORRICELLI, 15; Senator DORGAN, 20.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. On behalf of the leader, I also ask that at 11 a.m. the Senate begin consideration of S. 955, the foreign operations appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the Chair.

PROGRAM

Mr. DOMENICI. For the information of all Senators, in behalf of the leader, I state the following. Tomorrow, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 11 a.m. By previous consent, at 11 a.m. the Senate will begin consideration of S. 955, the foreign operations appropriations bill. By previous consent, a vote on final passage of S. 1004, the energy and water appropriations bill, will occur following the first vote relative to the foreign operations bill.

Thus far, we have been able to make considerable progress on four appropriations bills cleared for floor action.